

# Population Projections Description

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## INTRODUCTION

The current set of population projections for the state and its counties was released by the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management in **June of 2008**. The greatest difference between these projections and the previous ones (released in 2007) is the difference in assumed growth trends for the three decades from 2000 to 2030.

The basic assumption is almost the same for both series. For the previous set of projections, the assumption was that migration (and, hence, growth) for July 1, 2006 through April 1, 2030 was a **function of two sets of growth**. The first set was the "trend" growth based on the 1990-2000 base decade. The second was the average annual non-institutional growth from April 1, 2000 through July 1, 2006 derived from the set of July 2006 Provisional County Estimates which was released by the State Demographer in May of 2007. For the current set of projections, the assumption is that migration (and, hence, growth) for July 1, 2007 through April 1, 2030 is also a **function of two sets of growth**. The first set is the "trend" growth based on the 1990-2000 base decade. The second is the average annual non-institutional growth from April 1, 2000 through July 1, 2007 derived from the set of [July 2007 Provisional County Estimates](#) which was released by the State Demographer in May of 2008.

The basic growth functions were somewhat different. For the previous set of projections, the first three years after the estimate date, 2006-2009, were considered "transition" years between the provisional estimates and the long range projections. For subsequent years, until April 1, 2010, the growth was assumed to approximate a weighted average of the "trend" growth and the "estimate" growth. For this set of projections, the "trend" growth was weighted at **40%** (and, hence, the "estimate" growth was weighted at **60%**). For the current set of projections, the first two years after the estimate date, 2007-2009, were considered "transition" years. The "trend" growth was weighted at **30%** (and, hence, the "estimate" growth was weighted at **70%**). The county totals for April 1, 2020 were adjusted for both sets of projections to try to maintain migration for April 2010 to April 2020 at close to the same levels as those of the last years (the previous set). or 3/4 of a year (the current set), of the 2000s.

The "transition" years were also treated somewhat differently. For the previous set of estimates, both the "estimate" growth weight, as well as the growth itself, were different for the "transition" years. For 2006-07, the "estimate" growth was that of July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006 and was weighted at 90%. For 2007-08, the "estimate" growth was one half of the July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2006 growth and was weighted at 80%. For 2008-09, the "estimate" growth was one third of the July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2006 growth and was weighted at 70%. For the current set of estimates, both the "estimate" growth weight, as well as the growth itself, were different for the "transition" years. For 2007-08, the "estimate" growth was one third that of July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2007 and was weighted at 90%. For 2008-09, the "estimate" growth was one fourth of the July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2007 growth and was weighted at 80%.

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The most fundamental basis for these projections are population values for North Carolina and its counties from the Census Bureau's **2000 Census of Population**. Since the last projection series, there have been a few minor corrections based on Census Bureau boundary changes.

These projections use single year of age totals (0-94) and one composite age group (95+) by male and female from the 2000 Census for the data for the 2nd year of the base decade. An estimate of the "White" fraction of each age group for each gender was made to create the detailed population for April 2000. An estimate of "White" is necessary because the **2000 Census data does not define races in the same way as the 1990 Census data** does. It does not define a single racial value for "White". The goal of the estimation procedure was to create a "White"/"Other" split which would match that of the 1990 Census. The "White" and "Other" values used for projected years are based on these estimates for April 2000 and corresponding values from the 1990 Census. For more details about the estimation procedure, click [here](#).

The "aging forward" of this 2000 population base strongly affects these age, race, and sex specific projections. This effect